

Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on October 22, 2010
SGW H-769, 10 am

PRESENT: Ms. Elizabeth Morey (Chair), Ms. Lauren Broad (Secretary), Dr. Catherine Bolton, Ms. Claudie Boujaklian, Mr. Roger Côté, Ms. Melanie Drew, Ms. Laura Gallo, Ms. Katherine Hedrich, Mr. Daniel Houde, Mr. Ramy Khoriaty, Ms. Taylor Knott, Mr. Zhuo Ling, Ms. Holly Nazar, Ms. Dale Robinson, Ms. Teresa Seminara, Mr. Adrien Severyns, Ms. Laura Stanbra, Ms. Brigitte St-Laurent, Ms. Lorraine Toscano, Ms. Rose Wangechi.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Ms. Anna Chigogidze, Dr. Lata Narayanan.

ABSENT: Mr. Gerald Beasley, Ms. Johanne De Cubellis, Mr. Abdullah Husen, Mr. Jacques Lachance, Mr. Howard Magonet, Ms. Morgan Pudwell, Ms. Katie Sheahan.

GUESTS: Mr. Peter Bolla, Ms. Martine Lehoux, Mr. Jean Pelland, Ms. Tanya Poletti.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair called the meeting to order. Ms. Stanbra moved to approve the agenda. Ms. St-Laurent seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair wished to remind the Council of the Open to Questions sessions, presented by the President's Office, a series of exchanges to discuss topics that matter to Concordians. The first session had taken place on September 17, 2010 in the de Seve cinema, and the Chair encouraged members of CCSL to look for future sessions to attend.

The Chair noted several events that had taken place or were taking place during the month of October. She congratulated the CSU on the success of the Speaker Series lecture by Nobel Laureate Elie Weisel in H-110 on October 19, 2010. The Chair acknowledged the success of the Volunteer Awareness Month during October, organized by the Concordia University Volunteer Initiative (CUVI), in partnership with the LIVE Centre. Numerous workshops, group volunteer outings, a film screening and the Volunteer & Leadership Fair had taken place. Campus Equity week, organized by CUPFA, would be held in the LB Atrium from October 26-28, 2010. The Alternative Spring Break program continued to receive applications from student, staff and faculty to participate in the 2011 ASB, which will send participants to one of four locations to experience community service first hand: Montreal, New Orleans, Dominican Republic and Peru. The Chair was happy to announce that Ms. Kelly Collins from the International Students Office had a healthy baby boy, Adrian, and both are doing well. On October 27 and 28, 2010, there will be a drop in for "Meet the Dean" at the SGW and Loyola Dean of Students offices, a chance for students and staff to get to know the Dean of Students in a casual setting.

The Chair noted that the Multi-faith Chaplaincy was continuing its Sacred Sites visits again this semester and she encouraged people to join them for the next visit in the Muslim prayer space on the seventh floor of the Hall building in November. Ms. Gallo added that anyone interested could inquire with her following the meeting.

The Gail Valaskakis Annual Lecture on Diversity in Canadian Media will be held on November 4, 2010 at the Masonic Hall. The guest speaker will be Drew Hayden Taylor, an award-winning playwright, comedian, writer and commentator.

The Chair distributed a draft document of the Loyola Chapel Initiative. The Loyola Chapel will be moving from being a traditionally Catholic church into an inter-faith space. The Chair encouraged everyone to visit the space and to make use of it for many types of events. In recent months, there has been great interest and use of the Chapel for various events.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2010

Mr. Khoriaty moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 17, 2010 and Mr. Severyns seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2010

4.1 Facilities Management Project Plans

The Chair welcomed the following guests from Facilities Management: Mr. Peter Bolla, Associate Vice-President of Facilities Management; Ms. Martine Lehoux, Director of Facilities Management Planning and Development; and Mr. Jean Pelland, Director of Project Management, Facilities Management.

A power point presentation was shown to the Council members, describing the various projects in Facilities Management currently underway at the university.

Mr. Pelland welcomed any questions or comments following the presentation and encouraged anyone who was interested in becoming involved in the discussion of the projects to contact him.

Ms. Nazar asked for clarification of what was meant by the statement that 2/3 of the Student Centre would be under the jurisdiction of the students and 1/3 of the Student Centre would be under the jurisdiction of the university. Mr. Bolla replied that 2/3 of the Centre will be occupied by the students, while 1/3 will be occupied by the university. There will be a management committee, a majority of which are students, that will make general decisions with regards to the building. Ms. Nazar inquired what would happen if the university signed a service contract with a provider that was in conflict with other companies on campus, and Mr. Bolla replied that it would not apply to the Student Centre; none of the service contracts of the university will apply to the Student Centre as it will be treated independently in this respect. Mr. Bolla noted that the safety procedures and regulations of the university would apply to the building. The ownership of the building will remain with the university for insurance, tax and liability reasons, however there are occupancy rights by the students of 2/3, therefore any decisions regarding the building would be taken by the management group.

Ms. Robinson asked what services would occupy the building, and when and where is it anticipated to happen. Ms. Lehoux answered that the aim is to have all the Student Services in the centre, for the purpose of consolidating all the student activities: clubs, lounges, food, Student Services. Health Services and Financial Aid would not be included, as they have just recently relocated to the GM building. Mr. Severyns replied that the CSU Council had recently passed a motion to go to referendum in order to propose a fee increase to students for the project, and they hoped to begin in August 2011. Mr. Bolla added that the site for the centre was not yet confirmed, but that there were several options under review.

Mr. Côté followed up, adding that the presentation was a conceptual piece, therefore the ideas presented would certainly have to be re-evaluated as time went on.

Ms. Hedrich requested a copy of the referendum question in order to determine what might be involved in arranging any changes to the fee structure, so as to avoid any delays in charging the students if the referendum question were approved. Mr. Severyns agreed to send this information to Ms. Hedrich.

Ms. Toscano asked what would happen to the chapel at Grey Nuns and any artwork or furniture inside the buildings. She also hoped that the green space on the site would be maintained. Ms. Lehoux confirmed that although the nuns have started to de-sanctify the chapel, it is protected by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Ideally, it will be used as a multi-purpose space for various events. When the university purchased the building, they did not purchase the artwork or furniture, therefore the nuns will take it with them as they leave. Ms. Lehoux reiterated that the project is designed to work with the existing infrastructure and any new construction will be for new labs and research centres. The plan was to maintain and possibly increase the amount of green space at the location. Several architects will be submitting proposals for review. The Chair added that the Loyola Chapel had not been de-sanctified, therefore could still be used for religious services.

Mr. Khoriaty suggested using Concordia students as interns for the development of some of the projects and Mr. Pelland stated that two students had interned over the summer and he hoped for more in the winter 2011 semester.

A brief discussion ensued regarding access to the elevators for persons with disabilities during the renovations to the escalators and Mr. Pelland confirmed that access to the elevators would be reserved for those students, staff or faculty. Unfortunately, the project will take time, as the escalators will be inaccessible in phases. The alternative of closing the building completely was not a viable option for the university.

The Chair extended an invitation to Facilities Management to return when the plans for the projects were more solidified. The Chair added that an issue of concern had been the displacement of student groups as a result of the projects, however she confirmed that alternative spaces have been identified for those groups who would be affected. Ms. Lehoux reported that in less than ten years, the university had doubled its space and there were still many great projects on the horizon.

5. COMMUNICATION & AWARENESS RAISING OF THE STUDENT SERVICES SECTOR

The Chair reminded the Council that at the September 17, 2010 CCSL meeting, the decision had been made to discontinue the sub-committee on Communication & Awareness Raising of the Student Services Sector, and to instead add the issue as a regular item on the agenda.

The Chair pointed out to the Council that a CCSL banner had been created as part of awareness raising in order to draw attention at various events, and that it currently stood outside the meeting room for all to see. The Chair noted that the Concordia Open House would be held on October 23, 2010 on both campuses, providing potential future students with vital information about the university.

Ms. Poletti distributed the *Concordia University Viewbook 2011-2012*, a tool used for recruitment of new students at the university. The viewbook emphasizes a new approach by University Communications to become more dynamic and appealing.

6. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

6.1 Sub-committees

The Chair reported that the following positions were still vacant for the sub-committees:

CCSL Special Projects: 1 student from the School of Extended Learning (CCSL representative waiting to be confirmed by January 2011)

CCSL Awards: 1 undergraduate student representative and 1 faculty member

HOJO: 1 representative from CCSL

Dr. Bolton agreed to participate as the faculty member on the CCSL Awards sub-committee. The Chair requested that others interested in participating contact Ms. Broad.

CCSL Special Projects

Ms. Stanbra notified the Council that the fall deadline for applications to the CCSL Special Projects Fund had been October 15, 2010. There were 71 applications received compared to 45 in the fall 2009 semester. The sub-committee will begin to review and rank the applications online, followed by a review meeting on October 22, 2010 to determine the funding. Ms. Stanbra reminded the Council that according to the new guidelines approved by CCSL in the Spring 2010 semester, any projects requesting funding over the \$5,000 maximum would be reviewed by CCSL at large, not simply by the sub-committee. There were only three projects requesting over \$5,000, and these applicants will be asked to present their projects to CCSL at the November 26, 2010 meeting.

CCSL Awards

The Chair announced that the awards night would be held on April 7, 2011. The awards night had been held at the Montefiore Club in April 2010, however due to ongoing renovations, the space would not be available for this year. The new venue for the 2011 awards night will be the Loyola Chapel. The Chair noted that arrangements would hopefully be made to accommodate transportation to the Loyola campus via additional shuttle buses. The Chair has been and will continue to meet with student groups and will encourage them and others at the university to nominate deserving students, staff and faculty.

Housing and Job Bank (HOJO)

Ms. St-Laurent informed CCSL that Ms. Leanne Ashworth, acting Coordinator of HOJO, was currently working on the annual HOJO report for the Council and would present it at the November 26, 2010 meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

The Chair announced that Mr. Michael Di Grappa, VP Services, would be leaving the university at the end of October 2010 and would be replaced for the interim by Mr. Côté. The Chair offered to send a farewell gift to Mr. Di Grappa on behalf of CCSL for his many years of service to the university and specifically to the Services sector. The Chair suggested that the Council keep Mr. Di Grappa in mind for the spring 2011 CCSL Awards.

Mr. Côté confirmed that he would take the position of acting VP Services as of November 1, 2010 for an undetermined amount of time. Mr. Côté said that since his responsibilities to many new committees would surely restrict his availability, he would temporarily step down from his position on CCSL, as he felt time constraints would not allow him to do justice to the Council. Mr. Côté formally introduced Ms. Tanya Poletti to the Council, saying that she would take his place at CCSL until his duties as acting VP Services were fulfilled. Mr. Côté expressed great confidence in Ms. Poletti's ability to step in, as she has been a long-time member of Student Services and is very knowledgeable of the sector. Mr. Côté planned to remain in tune with the workings of CCSL through Ms. Poletti. While in his new position, Mr. Côté reported that Ms. Stanbra would become the managing director of the Student Services sector, while Ms. Linda Healey would become the managing director of the Enrolment side of the sector. Mr. Côté was confident that both Ms. Stanbra and Ms. Healey would be successful in taking on these additional roles temporarily.

Mr. Khoriaty reported that the CSU would be putting lines on the poster boards in the Hall building in order to improve the visibility of posters that are put up. The Dean of Students Office was supportive of the initiative, and the CSU was currently in discussion with Facilities Management to move forward.

Mr. Khoriaty asked the Council who was responsible for the Food and Alcohol Committee, since he wanted to ensure that there was CSU representation. The Chair suggested that Mr. Khoriaty contact Ms. De Cubellis of Hospitality or Mr. Alex Oster from the Dean of Students Office.

Ms. Nazar wished to discuss the issue of graduate student fees at the university and the changes to the graduate student billing structure. She expressed her disappointment with the new structure, stating that it had been problematic for graduate students. Ms. Nazar informed the Council that the understanding between the university and graduate students had been that no interest fees or penalties would be charged to graduate students on unpaid tuition fees until August 2011. A problem arose for Ms. Nazar personally when she requested her transcripts from the Birks Student Service Centre, however they would not release them to students with unpaid tuition fees. Ms. Nazar argued that this was penalizing students, restricting them from applying to graduate school without the necessary documents. She said that there had been no communication to the students about this potential obstacle and proposed that the policy be reviewed to address this issue facing many graduate students. Ms. Nazar added that the issue had been raised through other avenues at the university, however she felt it important to discuss at CCSL.

Ms. Hedrich confirmed that as Manager of Student Accounts, the policy was under her jurisdiction. Ms. Hedrich clarified that transcripts would be released only under the condition that the need was for anything Concordia related, such as for students seeking funding for work or research at Concordia, or for students wishing to apply to another program at Concordia.

A discussion ensued on the case presented by Ms. Nazar, however the Chair recommended that individual cases be discussed between the student and the appropriate department, not at CCSL. The Chair suggested that Ms. Nazar relate any other cases to Ms. Hedrich directly for discussion. If the issue remained, perhaps more debate at CCSL would be appropriate. Ms. Hedrich confirmed that the Dean of Graduate Studies and the CEO had decided this particular policy regarding the release of transcripts. The Chair suggested that the concerns of graduate students be related to the Dean of Graduate Studies and CEO, and Ms. Nazar could report back to CCSL at the next meeting. Ms. Nazar wished to note that this issue was very important for the relationship between the university and graduate students.

Ms. Drew notified CCSL that the annual flu campaign would begin at the university on November 8, 2010 through Health Services. The vaccine would be free for certain people, such as those with asthma or cardiac problems. The flu vaccine had not been given in the previous year due to the focus on the H1N1 vaccine, however this year it would be made available at both campuses. There would be a general distribution at the university to communicate this information to the community.

Mr. Khoriaty invited the Council members to visit the Farmers Market currently taking place on the Hall building Terrace. There were approximately ten farmers located outside selling fresh products from their farms.

The Chair reported that the new Advisor of Rights and Responsibilities and a representative from the Ombuds Office would be present at the next CCSL meeting to provide information on their roles and services. The Chair also said that the new Coordinator of Community Relations, Linton Garner, would be invited to a future CCSL meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for November 26, 2010 in SGW-H-769 at 10am.

9. TERMINATION OF MEETING

Mr. Severyns motioned to terminate the meeting. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.